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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11, 13 and 21-23 have been canceled.

Claims 3-5 have been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 1 and any intervening dependent claims to satisfy the objection.

Claims 14-16 have been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 11 and any intervening dependent claims to satisfy the objection.

Claims 6-10 have been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 3 to overcome the rejection.

Claims 12 and 17-20 have been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 14 to overcome the rejection.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the notice of allowable subject matter of Claims 3-5 and 14-16, however, Applicant submits that these claims are distinguishable over the prior art of record for reasons not limited to those presented by the examiner, and that the record speaks for itself.

Claims 3-10, 12, and 14-20 are pending in the application.

By way of this response, Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the examiner telephone Rich Wawryzniak at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Applicant respectfully requests examination and

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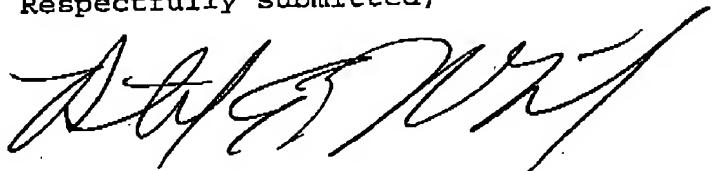
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favorable reconsideration of Claims 3-10, 12, and 14-20.

A petition for an extension of time within the third month is included with this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

1/5/05



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